

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PASSING OF DAVID S.
CUNNINGHAM, JR.

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, Los Angeles has lost a great leader, a champion for accessible, affordable housing and a true community visionary: David Surmier Cunningham, Jr. Dave Cunningham made major contributions to our city, including serving on the Los Angeles City Council with distinction, honor and dignity from 1973 to 1986, succeeding Tom Bradley when he became Mayor. Dave Cunningham and Tom Bradley would remain close allies throughout their lives.

Among the first African American elected leaders in the city, Mr. Cunningham represented a district that included Koreatown, the Latino neighborhood of Pico-Union, the heavily Jewish district of Fairfax, and the majority African American community of West Adams. I was proud to be a constituent, and later to represent many of the same diverse communities that he served.

Mr. Cunningham had a remarkable and widely varied career. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a cartographer until 1960, the same year he says he was bitten by the political bug, when he attended the historic Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles and saw John Kennedy win the nomination for president.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in economics and political science at the University of California, Riverside in 1962, and then was selected for a Coro Foundation Public Affairs internship with Assemblyman Charles Warren. The next year he moved to the private sector and spent three years in Lagos, Nigeria as West Africa regional manager for the Dukane Corporation.

On return to the U.S., he managed community relations for Hughes Aircraft for a year before forming a government consulting partnership in 1968 that would be his focus for the next five years, along with earning a Master's degree in Urban Studies from Occidental College. In 1973 he won the responsibility of representing Los Angeles' 10th City Council District.

As a City Councilmember, Mr. Cunningham took on pressing issues from opposing drilling in Santa Monica Bay to leading a campaign to divest the city's holdings in apartheid-era South Africa. He is perhaps best known for his fierce advocacy for improving the education of African American students in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and for pioneering policies that significantly increased affordable housing in the city, including for seniors and citizens returning after incarceration.

He chaired the committee focused on housing and community development, and he called on federal housing officials to put thousands of boarded-up homes owned by the government back into use. He also used his

committee role to encourage minority hiring at investment banks that sought work with the city. In the early 1980s, he was a key ally in Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky's crusade to shut down the Los Angeles Police Department's infamous Public Disorder Intelligence Division, which kept files on civil rights organizations and other activist and civic groups.

After his city council service, he continued his housing focus, both in the private sector as an investment banker, and through a leadership position with the Community Housing Equity Corporation. Mr. Cunningham cultivated strong relationships with constituents, in particular asking his Chief of Staff MAXINE WATERS and aide Geneva Cox to work with the women of the district to develop leadership skills and harness the considerable energy and creativity of those women to improve the lives of people living in the district. The 10th Council District Women's Steering Committee continues its service to this day.

In 1988 he formed the government relations consulting firm, Dave Cunningham and Associates, that would be his focus for the next three decades, serving clients from small entrepreneurs and giant corporations like Hertz. His devotion to service later in his life included his role as state president of the Black American Public Affairs Committee (BAPAC), continuing his advocacy for equity, civil rights, economic development and community empowerment.

A man for all seasons, Mr. Cunningham was an accomplished jazz musician who played bass in a band, and he even appeared in a Chris Rock movie.

My thoughts are with Mr. Cunningham's son, my friend Judge David S. Cunningham, III, and the rest of his loving family and friends. To those of us who were fortunate enough to cross Dave's path, he offered guidance, wisdom and insight. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO KIEU-CHINH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kieu-Chinh, a legendary Vietnamese-American actress and a philanthropist, who has contributed six decades of her life to the motion picture industry worldwide, including Vietnam, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, China, India, Australia, Canada, and Hollywood.

Kieu-Chinh was born in 1937 in Hanoi, North Vietnam. She moved to the South Vietnam as a refugee in her own motherland at the age of 17, and started her acting career at the age of 19. Since then, she has appeared in over 100 movies and television shows including "M.A.S.H" and "The Joy Luck Club."

Throughout her acting career, she has received numerous accolades and awards: Best

Actress Award of South Vietnam—Arts and Cinema Prize (1969), Best Leading Actress at the Asian Film Festival in Taipei (1973), Emmy Award for her documentary—"Kieu-Chinh: A Journey Home" produced by FOX Television (1996), Special Acting Award at the Cinema Delle Donne Film Festival in Italy (2003), and Lifetime Achievement Awards at the Vietnamese International Film Festival (2003), at the San Diego Film Festival (2006) and at the San Francisco Movie Festival-Festival of Globe (2015).

In addition to her acting success, she was honored as "Refugee of the Year" by the United States Congress in 1990 and was invited to be the first Vietnamese woman to speak at the 10th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Groundbreaking Anniversary in Washington, D.C. in 1992.

In 1993, together with Lewis Puller—an American veteran and Terry Anderson—a journalist, Kieu-Chinh co-founded the Vietnam Children's Fund (VCF). Since its establishment, the VCF has built 51 schools in Vietnam to provide safe and high-quality education for more than 30,000 students annually. In the same year, she became a lecturer for the Greater Talent Network, Inc. in New York and has made multiple appearances at different conventions, academic conferences, and universities around the country for over two decades.

On the 60th Anniversary of Kieu-Chinh Cinema, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Kieu-Chinh and her invaluable contributions to the motion picture industry and the communities worldwide.

HONORING MICHAEL "MIKE"
FISHER

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of the finest and most dedicated members of the Office of Emergency Management: Michael "Mike" Fisher of Bastrop, Texas. He was one of the most respected individuals in not only Bastrop County, but throughout our great state.

For 11 years, Mike served as Deputy Director of Emergency Management for Bastrop County. He was considered a "man of vision and an innovator of Emergency Management." He had an uncanny ability to foresee the future of disasters and stay ahead of the diverse emergencies in our state and Bastrop County. These skills enabled him to succeed on many levels within his position.

Mike managed the emergency response for our local disasters, including the 2009 Wilderness Ridge Fire and the Hidden Pines Fire of October 2015, as well as coordinated the county's response to the major flooding events we've experienced in more recent years.

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